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6 July 1954

A SAMPLING OF SWEDISH POSITIONS ON ISSUES CONCERNING
VARIOUS INTERNATIONAL BODIES

1. Regarding Participation in the Council of Europe.

a. In 1949 the Swedish delegation opposed the transformation of the Council of Europe into a vehicle for European federation.

b. In 1951-1952 Foreign Minister Osten Unden threatened that Sweden would withdraw from the Council of Europe if, as proposed, it should become coordinated with the European Defense Community and with the Coal and Steel Community.

c. In May 1952, on the Eden plan to associate the European Army with the Council of Europe, Foreign Minister Unden stated that Sweden cannot accept the British proposal. If the British proposal should be accepted by the Council, Sweden should then be prepared to leave it.

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d. In February 1953, the Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of Sweden warned that Sweden would have to reconsider its membership in the Council of Europe if the trend toward active consideration of defense measures continued in the Council.

2. Regarding Certain NATO Activities.

a. The Swedish Government objected to the naval phase of the fall 1952 NATO manoeuvres ("Main Brace") extending into the Baltic Sea.

b. In 1953 the Swedish government turned down a request by the U.S. Navy for a courtesy naval visit to Swedish Baltic ports.

c. In 1953 Sweden unofficially expressed sympathy with those Norwegian elements opposing the stationing of non-Norwegian NATO personnel on air-bases in Norway.

3. Regarding a UN Survey of Possibilities for Free German Elections.

Analyzing the prolonged exchange of notes between the Soviet Union and the Western Powers in the December 1953 issue of Tiden, official organ of the Swedish Social Democratic Party, Foreign Minister Unden reiterated his earlier stated opposition to

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an on-the-spot UN survey of the possibility of holding free elections throughout Germany. He stated that such a proposal was merely a tactical manoeuver in the struggle for German public opinion.

4. Regarding Membership of the Federal Republic of Germany in the World Meteorological Organization.

Despite earlier statements favoring the admittance of the Federal Republic of Germany to membership in the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), the chief of the UN section of the Swedish Foreign Office in June, 1953 stated that the Foreign Office did not propose to reply to the mail ballot it received from the WMO Secretariat regarding the applications made by both the Federal Republic of Germany and the "German Democratic Republic" for membership in that body.

5. Regarding Unification of Germany

In a speech before the Stockholm Publicist's Club in January, 1954, Foreign Minister Unden advocated the unification of Germany even at the expense of delaying German assimilation into the Western defense scheme. He stated, among other things: "...the Soviet program contains much that would be

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valuable from a Swedish viewpoint. Moscow says it is prepared to accept free elections... and the reunification of Germany... but Germany must not enter into a military alliance with the Western Powers. This point of view would appear to be of interest to Sweden as a solution of the German problem."

6. Regarding OEEC

a. Although a member of OEEC, Sweden's trade with Eastern Europe in 1950 remained above pre-war levels.

b. In February 1952, the Swedish government expressed apprehensions lest NATO cause OEEC to waste away.

7. Regarding Chinese Aggression in Korea

In a speech before the Stockholm Publicist's Club in January, 1953, the Swedish Foreign Minister reiterated and defended his government's 1951 voting position in the General Assembly of the United Nations, where it abstained on the issue of the condemnation of the Communist Chinese aggression in Korea.

8. Regarding Proposed Constitutional Changes

In early 1950 the Swedish Parliament and its Constitutional Committee reacted unfavorably to a

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proposed constitutional change allowing future
abridgement of Swedish sovereignty.

It was stated that the Swedish constitution
already allows participation in international
organizations and that the change was consequently
unnecessary.

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